



## **Mayor and Council Meeting Business Session Minutes September 12, 2011 7:00 PM**

The Riverdale Mayor and City Council met on September 12, 2011 at 7:03 PM for the purpose of conducting a regular Business Session. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 7200 Church Street, Riverdale, Georgia 30274.

### **Call to Order and Welcome**

With a quorum present, Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

### **ROLL CALL:**

All members of the governing body were present.

### **INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Invocation & Pledge was led by Roland Downing, Chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

### **OFFICER IN ARMS TO READ RULES OF CONDUCT:**

Rules of Conduct read by Office L. Stephenson.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:**

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

**Addition(s):**                **None.**

**Deletion(s):**                **Resolution No. 51-09-2011**

**Tabled:**                        **None.**

**Postponed:**                **Adoption of the August 22, 2011 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes.**

**Action:**                Council Member Kenny Ruffin moved to approve the amended agenda. Council Member Wanda Wallace offered the second. The amended agenda was adopted unanimously by a vote of 4/0.

### **PRESENTATION(S):**

**Financial Update by Lolita Grant, Finance Director.** (See Exhibit A: PowerPoint Presentation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Update)

Mayor Dixon called for questions and concerns from the Council Members.

Council Members Stamps-Jones and Hall thanked Ms. Grant for providing the update.

Council Member Wallace asked Ms. Grant if Lowe's had to pay a full year of taxes in that they closed prior to the end of the year. She said the Mayor and Council should have known that the Lowe's had planned to close its doors.

Ms. Grant responded that the business is responsible for paying the tax bill for the year. She added that the business also has to pay for license fees, sales and other taxes associated with operating a business. Ms. Grant assured Council Member Wallace that Staff was not aware of the store closing until it actually closed.

Council Member Wallace opined that the Mayor and Council should have been more involved in the budget process. She said Staff should have provided forecasts and benchmarks throughout the year so that the Mayor and Council would have been better prepared to address the budget shortfall. She expressed that she was not happy with the furloughs and the freeze on contributions to the 457 Plan. Council Member Wallace said that Staff should provide the Mayor and Council with detailed financial forecasts so that they can better prepare for the FY2013 Budget.

Ms. Grant said that it is a regular practice of Staff to provide quarterly financial updates to the Mayor and Council. She said Staff would continue to monitor the city's financials. She further said the budget process is a year round process that does not begin during budget season.

Council Member Wallace said she was not pleased with how late the budget recommendations were made to the Mayor and Council. She said other recommendations could have been made had the Mayor and Council been more involved.

Ms. Grant said the delay was due to the tax digest. She said once the tax digest was received, the City was able to know what recommendations needed to be made in order to present a balanced budget to the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Grant continued that Staff will know as early as January 2012 where the City stands financially.

Council Member Wallace said that whatever impacts the citizens, directly impacts her quality of life in that she lives in the City. She said it is important for her to remain abreast of the City's financial standing.

Council Member Ruffin asked if the city has three (3) months of operating costs in the bank pursuant to the City's fiscal policy.

Ms. Grant said yes.

Council Member Ruffin said elected officials can attend retail conventions with hopes of bringing retail and other businesses to the City. He said many company representatives will even engage in a conversation with them and give the impression that they will come. However, no matter how well the information is presented to them, they will conduct their own research. He said the City really wants to bring businesses to this community; city officials should focus their attention on improving public safety, schools and median household income for the area. He said city officials must be astute in who and how they approach businesses.

Council Member Ruffin encouraged the Mayor and Council Members to develop a stronger partnership with Clayton County Public Schools. He said if the City can convey to the school system how important education is to the local economy, it would be helpful.

Mayor Dixon said that after taxes come at the end of the year, the City will have a better idea of its financial standing and will know how to move forward with the planning of the FY13 Budget.

Council Member Stamps-Jones asked how the City accounts for all residential properties. She asked if the refuse service would help the City to identify vacant or foreclosed properties.

Ms. Jessie said the most efficient way is through the property tax bills. She said residential refuse does not determine whether a property is vacant or occupied. She said as long as the property is owned, someone is responsible for paying the taxes.

Council Member Stamps-Jones asked how often the list is maintained.

Ms. Jessie responded that the department maintains an annual list.

**Directive(s):** The Mayor and Council asked for responses to the following:

1. What is the best way to survey the sanitation users on whether they want to participate in a new recycling program? Is this something the current contractor can do or should do as a part of their contractual obligations?
2. How many vacant residences do we have?
3. How many properties are in foreclosure?

Ms. Jessie indicated that she and Staff will collaborate to provide the information to Mayor and Council Members.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**The following individual(s) offered public comments:**

*None.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Official Meeting Minutes from September 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion:** Council Member Kenny Ruffin moved to postpone the adoption of the September 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Wanda Wallace offered the second. The meeting minutes were postponed until the next scheduled meeting by a vote of 4/0.

**RESOLUTION(S):**

**Resolution No. 50-09-2011 RFP SPORTS PROGRAMMING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVERDALE, GEORGIA, APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SPORTS PROGRAMMING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Iris Jessie, City Manager, presented Resolution No. 50.09.2011. She explained that the purpose of the agenda item is for the Mayor and Council Members to consider the possibility of a third party managing a structured sports program at the Town Centre and new park site. She asked for permission to circulate a Request for Proposals for Professional Sports Programming and Management Services.

Mayor Dixon called for questions.

Council Member Hall asked how bids are advertised.

Ms. Jessie stated that the City advertises on the websites of the city, Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), other relative websites.

Council Member Wallace inquired about the registration fees.

Ms. Jessie responded that the City hopes to make use of user fees to pay the third party. She said there are best practices the City would like to follow as well. She further said that the City has included representation from Clayton County on the review panel in the past.

Council Member Wallace asked if the third parties will be required to have an extensive background in managing sports programs.

Ms. Jessie said only those who have expertise in sports will be considered.

Council Member Ruffin said the third party does not necessarily have to be a sports firm. He said there are pastors, residents and community leaders who have experience in sports. He said it is important that the City gets a sports program going in the very near future so the youth will have something to do locally.

Ms. Jessie concurred. She added that this is also an opportunity to get the public involved so they can put their stamp on the program. She continued that some people have a natural zeal for giving back to their community.

Council Member Ruffin said the Atlanta Hawks are willing to donate jerseys. He said if the City has a basketball team, they will be able to receive the jerseys and possibly offset uniform costs.

**Motion:** Council Member Kenny Ruffin moved to adopt Resolution 50-09-2011. Council Member Wanda Wallace offered the second. Resolution 50-09-2011 was adopted unanimously by a vote of 4/0.

#### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT(S):**

##### **Council Member Cynthia Stamps-Jones**

Council Member Cynthia Stamps-Jones thanked everyone for attending. She directed everyone's attention to the anniversary of 9/11. She further stated that although ten years has passed, it is important to always remember what happened on that day. She said the City co-sponsors a veteran's parade or some type of ceremony every year; however, it is never as well-attended as it should be. She said people should pray for, support and celebrate the soldiers for the important work they do. Council Member Stamps-Jones encouraged the public to pray for the President of the United States as well. She said she is excited about the sports program being implemented in the City.

##### **Council Member Wayne Hall**

Council Member Wayne Hall thanked the public for attending the meeting. He told them to have a safe journey home and he hopes to see them in attendance at the next meeting.

##### **Council Member Wanda Wallace**

Council Member Wanda Wallace thanked the individuals in the audience for attending the meeting. She said the meeting was good and the City will continue to move in a good direction.

##### **Council Member Kenny Ruffin**

Council Member Kenny Ruffin encouraged the public to attend the upcoming WALK-OFF. He said it is being held as a part of the Let's Move Initiative in an effort to keep families active and healthy.

**Mayor Evelyn Wynn Dixon**

Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mayor Dixon indicated that the City has experienced some 'hiccups' but is in overall good shape. She further stated that other governments have been furloughing employees for years; however, the City of Riverdale was just now feeling the effects of the downturn in the economy.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Wanda Wallace; second offered by Council Member Kenny Ruffin. The meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.